

Washington State Ferries Long Range Plan/Ferry Finance Status Report

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Introduction and Presentation Overview

- Progress report on ESHB 2358 Work Plan.
- Discussion of Policy Framework for Long-Range Plan Update.
- Look ahead and major milestones
 - WSF work elements
 - Coordination with WSTC work elements

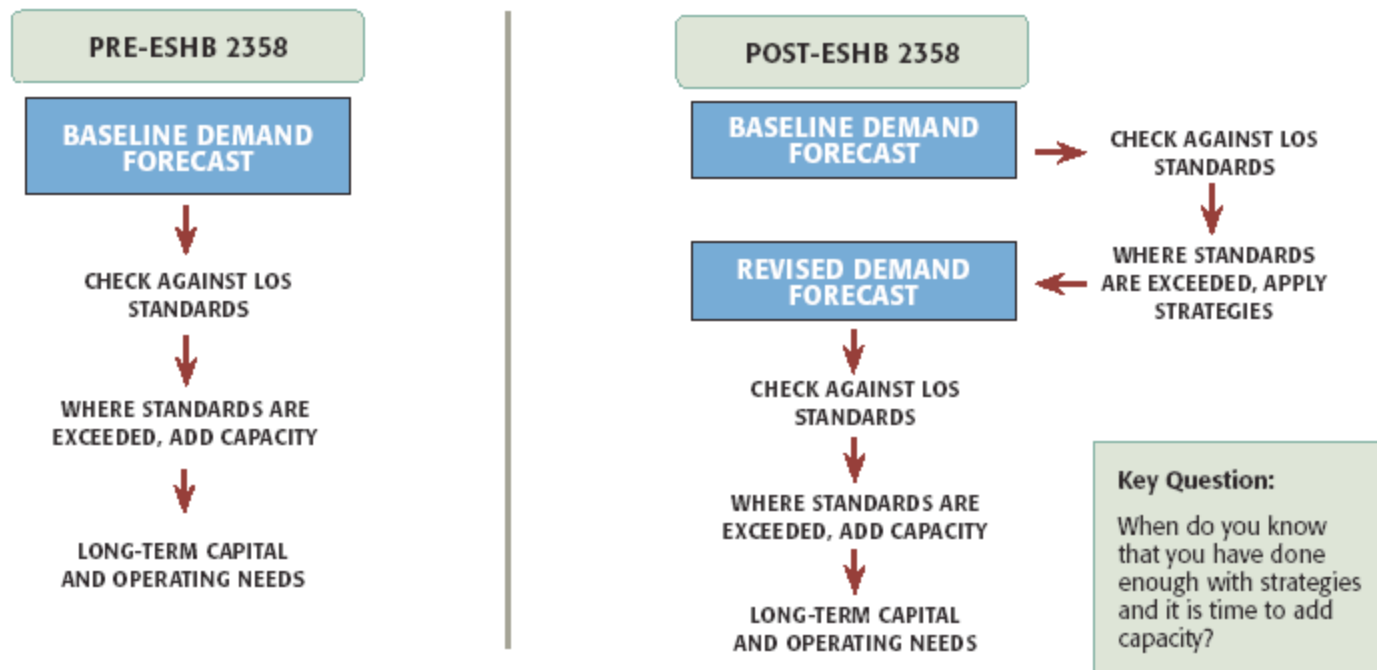
Long-Range Plan will need to Balance Key Service and Funding Considerations

- The 2006 Long-Range Plan was developed to meet the future needs of the system based on ridership growth and LOS standards.
- The 2008 Revised Plan must find a balance among three key variables:
 - LOS Standards
 - Capital and operating costs
 - Operational and pricing strategies
- There is tension among these variables, changes in one impact the others.



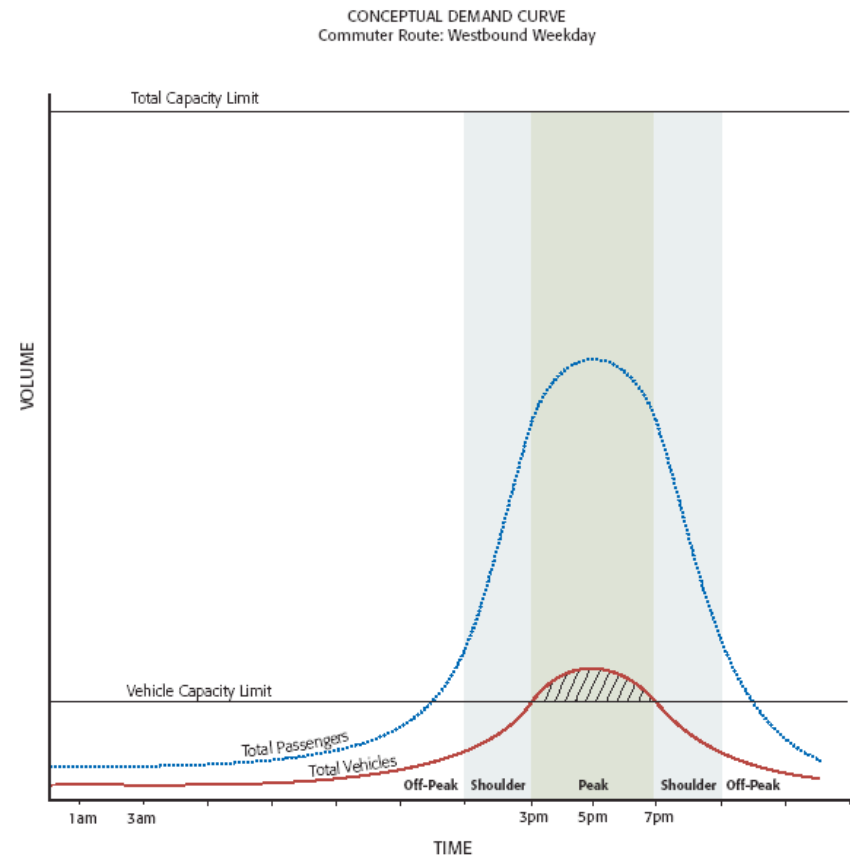
Approach to Revised Long-Range Plan

- ESHB 2358 changed the way WSDOT/WSF plans for future ferry needs.
- The focus is on increasing the utilization of current assets before increasing capacity.



Key Challenge: Too Many Cars During Peak Travel Periods

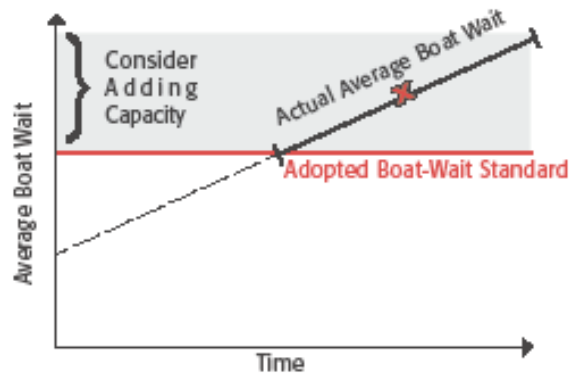
- The key factor creating pressure to grow the system is vehicle demand during peak periods.
- New approach is to use pricing and operational strategies to level demand and increase utilization throughout the day.
- Key will be to:
 - Increase walk-ons
 - Shift vehicles to other times of the day
- Need to grow ridership, while minimizing increases in peak congestion.



Revised LOS Standards as the Basis for System Sizing

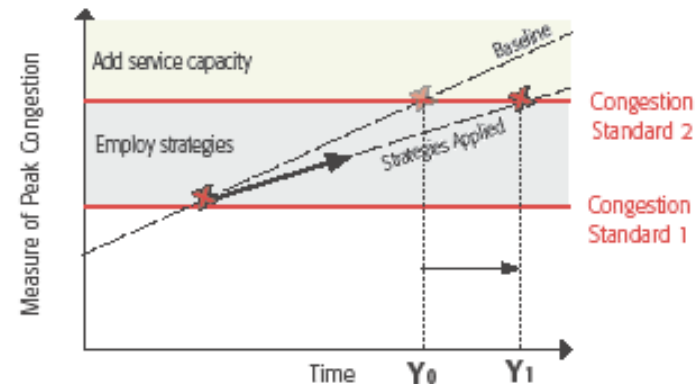
- Pre-ESHB 2358

- As demand grows, congestion worsens until the standard suggests increasing capacity.



- Alternative approach could include 2 standards

- Exceed first standard, employ strategies
- Allows ridership growth to continue, but congestion increases would slow.
- When second standard is exceeded, increase capacity.



Ferry Bill Work Plan Update

- **Ridership Analysis**

- Reviewed and refined methods for ferry ridership forecasting.
- Developed a reconciliation process for revenue and planning models.
- Building consensus on methods with a technical team that includes PSRC, WSDOT, JTC Ferry Finance consultant, and WSF forecast team.

- **Pricing and Operational Strategies**

- Situation assessments are complete.
- A long list of strategies has been developed.
- An evaluation framework for identifying best options has been developed.

- **Level-of-Service Standards**

- Situation assessment has been completed.
- Developed a new framework for how LOS might be redefined to support system sizing needs for the Long-Range Plan.

Overview of Schedule and Key Milestones

• **February-March, 2008:**

- Assessment of pricing and operational strategies to begin narrowing to a short list of most effective strategies.
- Baseline ridership forecasts by route and mode (existing service).
- Finalize approach to level-of-service standards for use in Long-Range Plan.
- March FAC public meetings – Ridership and LOS standards.
- On-board market survey (WSTC).

• **April-June, 2008:**

- Develop “baseline” funding needs – current service + preservation and replacement capital program.
- Integrate market survey findings into assessment of strategies.
- Finalize a short list of preferred operational and pricing strategies.
- June FAC public meetings – operational and pricing strategies.

Overview of Schedule and Key Milestones

- **July-September, 2008:**

- Integrate the input from public outreach on strategies.
- On-board market survey Phase II (WSTC).
- Develop revised ridership forecasts incorporating operational and pricing strategies.
- Develop service plans to meet LOS standards after impact of strategies are taken into account.
- Integrate Commission Long-term Financing recommendations.
- Develop revised Draft Long-Range Plan (service and investment plan).

- **October-December, 2008:**

- Public outreach on revised Draft Long-Range Plan.
- Integrate input from public outreach.
- Final Long-Range Plan adopted by WSTC in December 2008.

Questions?

For more information on the
Washington State Ferries Long Range Plan and
Ferry Finance Status Report, please contact

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